

## Message Text

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21

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /034 W

----- 012465

R 211053Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3582

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0619

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR AO

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON EVACUATION OPTIONS

PRETORIA FOR RSO; NAIROBI FOR RCO

1. DURING THE PAST MONTH MOST OF OUR PRIOR EVACUATION  
PLANNING HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND WE HAVE HAD TO  
RETHINK OUR OPTIONS. AMONG THOSE NO LONGER OPEN OR OF  
MINIMAL DEPENDABILITY:

A. U.S. FLAG VESSELS: BECAUSE OF SEVERE PORT CONGESTION,  
BOTH DELTA AND FARREL LINES, THE ONLY TWO U.S. FLAG CARRIERS  
SERVING LUANDA, HAVE CANCELLED REGULAR STOPS HERE.

B. COMMERCIAL AIR: SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS STOPPED FLIGHTS  
VIA LUANDA AFTER ONE OF ITS 747S WAS HIT BY GUNFIRE WHILE LANDING  
HERE IN APRIL. ALL REMAINING FLIGHTS LAND AND TAKE OFF FROM  
THE SOUTH OVER OPEN TERRAIN. HOWEVER THE PRESENCE OF HEAVY  
WEAPONS ALONG THIS FLIGHT PATH COULD CLOSE THE AIRPORT. MPLA  
NOW HAS A SIZEABLE GARRISON (HOUSING THEIR GENERAL STAFF)

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WITHIN HEAVY MACHINE-GUN RANGE OF THE SOUTHERN APPROACH PATH.

C. WORK BOATS: LARGE OCEAN-GOING WORK BOATS BELONGING TO TEXACO WERE ON CALL AT THE MOUTH OF THE CONGO RIVER, 12 HOURS AWAY. THESE BOATS WOULD EASILY HOLD 200-300 PEOPLE ON AN OPEN DECK FOR AN EVACUATION VOYAGE. HOWEVER TEXACO IS MOVING THE BOATS TO GABON ON MAY 27. THEY ARE STILL NOMINALLY ON CALL FOR LUANDA BUT THE TRANSIT TIME WOULD BE 42 HOURS MINIMUM. GULF OIL CO. HAS WORK BOATS IN CABINDA, 24 HOURS AWAY, BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF GULF'S COOPERATION.

D. GULF'S FLOATING OIL DEPOT: FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS GULF OIL HAS MOORED A MODIFIED TANKER IN LUANDA HARBOR. WE HAD PLANNED TO USE IT AS A STANDFAST LOCATION WHILE AWAITING WORK BOATS OR OTHER VESSELS. LAST WEEK GULF TOLD US THEY HAVE SOLD THE TANKER AND SOON IT WILL BE TOWED AWAY. (FOR SOME REASON THEY DECLINE TO TELL US TO WHOM THE SHIP WAS SOLD.)

E. SECURE STANDFAST LOCATION: WE HAD TWO SUITABLE STANDFAST MARSHALLING POINTS OUTSIDE THE CITY, ONE AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL AND THE OTHER AT THE CGR. NOW MPLA HAS MOVED A STRONG MILITARY FORCE INTO THE SCHOOL AREA, MAKING IT TOTALLY UNUSEABLE AND LARGELY ELIMINATING ANY HOPE OF USING THE NEARBY CGR.

F. ROAD EVACUATION: WHILE NEVER HIGH ON OUR LIST OF EVACUATION ALTERNATIVES, WE HAD THOUGHT WE COULD MOVE BY CONVOY TO A SAFER INTERIOR LOCATION. NOW, HOWEVER, ALL ROADS LEADING OUT OF LUANDA HAVE SIZEABLE GARRISONS OF MPLA AND/OR FNLA FORCES WHO CAN, AND HAVE ON OCCASION, STOPPED ALL ROAD TRAVEL.

## 2. OUR PRESENT EVACUATION PLANS ARE:

PRIMARY: SEND AMCITS OUT BY COMMERCIAL AIR. MANY U.S. COMPANIES HERE FORESEE A LACK OF ADEQUATE EVACUATION OPTIONS AND ARE NOW SENDING OUT THE MAJORITY OF THEIR REMAINING LOCAL AMERICAN STAFFS BY AIR. ALL BUT A FEW DEPENDENTS LEFT TWO WEEKS AGO.

### ALTERNATIVES:

A. WORKBOATS - DESPITE THE LONG DELAY WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE  
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THE TEXACO WORKBOATS FROM BAGON FOR TRANSPORT. WE WOULD STANDFAST IN TWO HOUSES IN LUANDA THAT HAVE BEEN STOCKED AND PREPARED FOR THIS EVENTUALITY OR AT THE CONGEN ITSELF. WE HAVE POSITIONED THE CONSULATE'S BOAT IN LUANDA HARBOR NEAR THE PORTUGUESE NAVAL BASE IN THE BAY. AMERICANS COULD BE CONVOYED TO THE NAVAL BASE AND THEN SHUTTLED IN OUR BOAT FROM THERE TO THE WORKBOAT. TEXACO HAS TOLD US THEY WILL NOT BRING THEIR WORKBOAT ALONGSIDE ANY DOCK FOR FEAR OF BEING SWAMPED BY PEOPLE TRYING TO FLEE.

B. MILITARY AIR - ALTHOUGH THE MAIN AIRPORT IS LIKELY TO BE

UNUSEABLE IF THE FIGHTING BECOMES AND REMAINS WIDESPREAD, THERE ARE TWO ADDITIONAL POSSIBLE LANDING SITES LOCATED ABOUT 17 MILES SOUTH OF THE CITY. SHOULD THE SITUATION REQUIRE IT, DAO AIRCRAFT FROM PRETORIA (DC-3) OR KINSHASA (U-2) MIGHT BE USED TO FLY AMERICANS FROM THESE TWO STRIPS. ONE IS ONE HALF MILE LONG SEMI-IMPROVED DIRT STRIP THAT THE RSO HAS SEEN AND CHECKED OUT. THE OTHER POSSIBILITY IS THE BACKSTRETCH OF A LARGE AUTO RACE TRACK TWO MILES FROM THE DIRT AIR STRIP. (WE TOOK AERIAL PHOTOS OF THE RACE TRACK MAY 20 AND WILL POUCH PRINTS WHEN THEY'RE READY.)

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ACTION OPR-02

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R 211053Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3583

INFO AMEMBASS PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0619

C. STANDFAST: IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THERE IS A SUDDEN AND COMPLETE BREAKDOWN IN PORTUGUESE CONTROL THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN IN THE CITY, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO MOVE ALL AMERICANS BY BOAT TO THE MUSSULO PENINSULA 10 MILES SOUTH OF THE CITY AND ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY BOAT OR A 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE. THERE ARE VACATION HOMES THERE THAT WE COULD USE.

3. WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED AMERICANS IN ANGOLA IS ABOUT 250, ONLY ABOUT 100 ARE IN LUANDA AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, AND THIS FIGURE SHOULD DROP TO 85-90 AS THE AMERICAN COMPANIES SEND OUT EMPLOYEES. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED 14 FOR OUR FSL

STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHOM WE HAVE PROMISED TO TAKE WITH US IF WE EVACUATE.

4. WE REGULARLY CONSULT WITH THE BRITISH, SOUTH AFRICAN AND GERMANS REGARDING THEIR EVACUATION PLANS. THE BRITISH HOPE TO MUDDLE THROUGH USING ANY AVAILABLE BRITISH VESSEL IN PORT. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE TWO OPTIONS, A) SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE C-130S OPERATING FROM THE TWO STRIPS SOUTH OF THE CITY, SECURING THE FIELD WITH PARATROOPERS IF REQUIRED; OR B) CALLING IN A FRIGATE WITH A HELICOPTER TO SHUTTLE THEIR CITIZENS FROM THEIR  
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CONSULATE. THE GERMANS NOW ARE PLACING THE MOST HOPE ON USE OF GERMAN-OWNED SHIPS. THEY PLAN TO CONGREGATE ON THE ISLAND OPPOSITE THE HARBOR AND SHUTTLE TO A NEARBY SHIP.  
PORTER

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